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THE SUGAR INDUSTRY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

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THE SUGAR INDUSTRY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Following is the translation of an article by O. I. Volkova of the MTIPP (Moskovskiy Tekhnologicheskiy Institut pishchevoy promyshlennosti -- Moscow Technological Institute of the Food Industry) in 'Sakharnaya promyshlennost', No 2, Moscow, February 1961, pages 69-70.

In China, which has undergone plunder and oppression at the hands of foreign imperialists over a long period of time, sugar production has developed very weakly. In 1936, for example, only 400,000 tons of sugar were produced. Therefore, in spite of the favorable conditions for domestic production, China has been forced to import sugar.

After freeing the country, the Communist Party and the government of the Chinese People's Republic began an extensive program for the establishment of a stable raw material base for sugar refining, reconstruction of old refineries and the building of new ones in order to increase the country's sugar industry.

In the First and Second Five-Year Plans, more money was allotted to the development of the sugar industry than any other branch of food products industry.

In the Chinese People's Republic sugar cane is the source of raw material in the south, and in the north beets are used. Sugar cane has been the source of sugar in China since the sixth or seventh centuries.

Until recently the main sugar producing districts in China have been Kwangtung and Heilungkiang. In Kwangtung province (to the south of Yangtze) about half of all the sugar cane was raised, and in Heilungkiang province two thirds of the sugar beets were concentrated. In present day China there are favorable conditions for raising sugar beets in almost every area of the country.

According to the Chinese press, the area devoted to the raising of sugar cane, and more especially that devoted to the raising of sugar beets has grown by several times since the establishment of the people's government.

Along with the development of the raw material basis in China, the technical aspects of sugar production are developing also. Its production potential is continually increasing. In 1949 there were only a few comparatively large factories, all equipped with antiquated machinery; now there are dozens of them. Many smaller sugar refineries have been built and rebuilt.

Kwangtung province is an important area in sugar production. It has more than 60 sugar refineries, including one of the largest in China -- the "Pei-Chieh" Sugar Refinery, which processes 70,000 tons of sugar annually.

The sugar industry is developing in other parts of the country as well. And so, while in 1949 in the northeast there was only one sugar refinery, which produced 7,000 tons of sugar annually, now several more modern sugar refineries (in the cities of Harbin, Kirin, Chia-mu-ssu, Fu-la-erh-chi) with an annual output of more than 20,000 tons each have been constructed.

In 1955 in Inner Mongolia, in the city of Pao-t'ou, a sugar refinery with a yearly production of up to 26,000 tons of sugar was put into operation. This refinery was equipped with modern machinery. Refineries with the same rate of production were also built in Hu-ho-hao-t'e and in the Hua-te region.

In the southwest, in the city of Nei-chiang, a sugar refinery with annual production rate of 20,000 tons was built. This refinery was planned, built, and equipped by Chinese specialists.

In Fukien province a sugar refinery is being built that will be able to process up to 20,000 tons of sugar beets every 24 hours.

In the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region there was formerly no sugar industry, but now there is a sugar refinery with an annual output of 24,000 tons.

In their struggle to fulfill the First and Second Five-Year Plans the workers of the Chinese People's Republic achieved their goal in the sugar industry. In 1959, 1,300 tons of sugar were produced -- 2.7 times more than in 1936.

The Chinese nation is building its new sugar industry and other branches of the national economy in the harmonious family of the socialist countries. It joins all its achievements with the brotherly help given it by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

For example, the German Democratic Republic is planning to send equipment to China for sugar refineries.

The Polish People's Republic gave scientific and technical assistance to China in the construction and equipping of three refineries. In 1954-1955 two sugar refineries were built in northern China; each of these processes 10,000 tons of sugar beets every 24 hours. In the beginning of 1959, in the south, the largest combine was put into operation; it processes 30,000 tons of sugar cane every 24 hours. Besides sugar, this combine produces alcohol, paper, synthetic silk, fodder yeast, dry ice, and other commodities.

Czechoslovakia contributed the equipment for two sugar cane refineries.

The Chinese people have attained huge successes in the development of their whole economy, including the sugar industry. However, the volume of the country's sugar production is still far from satisfying the needs of the Chinese people for this commodity. It is necessary to take into consideration the fact that an important area in sugar production for China is the island of Taiwan, which for all intents and purposes is now occupied

by the United States. The freeing of Taiwan is one of the conditions necessary for raising the sugar consumption of the Chinese people.

The Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party and the government of the Chinese People's Republic have decided to bring about a sharp increase of sugar industry in the Third Five-Year Plan, and to bring sugar production in 1962 up to 2.4-2.5 million tons. This would increase considerably the output per capita. The average per capita output in 1952 was 0.4 kilograms, and in 1956 1.1 kilograms. According to the plan, in 1962 the output of sugar should be 3.4-3.5 kilograms per capita.

In order to increase the balance of sugar and its use by the population, the Chinese government has just concluded a five-year trade agreement with the government of the Republic of Cuba for the purchase of Cuban sugar. During this period 500,000 tons of raw sugar will be sent to China every year.

Of all the socialist countries of Asia, the Chinese People's Republic occupies the foremost position in the field of sugar production. The Mongolian People's Republic and the Korean People's Democratic Republic do not produce sugar, and in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam the amount of sugar produced (1959 statistics) is around 9,000 tons, or 1.2 kilograms per capita. Thus, in spite of its limited circumstances China helps out its brother countries. Since 1956 it has shipped around 3,000 tons of sugar in economic aid to Mongolia. This year, with China's help, a sugar refinery with an annual output of 12,000 tons of granulated sugar will be built in the Korean People's Democratic Republic.

In this way the sugar industry in China, as well as other branches of the national economy, is developing on the basis of close economic collaboration and mutual aid with other countries of the socialist camp.

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